

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 18, 20, and 23-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Laor '299. The Examiner states that Hoen discloses an optical path-to-site link comprising light beams steered by a controllable beam steering device with predetermined control signals having a plurality of two axis rotatable mirrors capable of being rotated in a single axis and an actuator with inherent control signals. The Examiner states that Hoen does not disclose a transmitter with a light source and micromirrors, a receiver with a photodetector and a separate control coupling the micromirror and receiver by a circuit. The Examiner states that Wingo teaches the light source and photodetector as a transmitter and receiver. The Examiner states that Laor teaches a transmitter with a light source that specifically refers to Figure 19, element 110 and micromirrors shown in Figure 19, element 98, a receiver with a photodetector, Figure 19, element 90, and a separate control coupling control of the micromirror and receiver by a circuit. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the device of Hoen with the transmitter and receiver of Wingo with a separate control, receiver, and transmitter of Laor.

We cannot agree. Applicants have already commented extensively on the Hoen and Wingo references. The newly cited Laor reference utilizes a separate optical means comprising four radiant emission diodes (REDs) along the optical fibers and radiation sensor or sensors for receiving radiation from the REDs. Laor compares the signals received at the targeting line 12 or 14 from the REDs of a targeted line 14 or 12 to determine the locations of incidence on a

sensor of the signals from the various REDs and utilizes this information to better align the optical transmission pathway by means of feedback.

In sharp contrast, the present invention does not employ a separate optical means for aligning the mirror to the optical path. In the present invention, the collimated light beam, which is used to transmit the data, is also used to control the orientation of the micromirror so that the beam is reflected onto the photodetector. Thus, no separate means is required by the present invention, in sharp contrast to the Laor reference. Claims 18 and 23 have been modified to more clearly recite this feature.

The Examiner rejects claims 19, 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Laor as applied to claims 18 and 23 above, and further in view of Abeles, et al.

These claims are dependent upon claim 18 or claim 23. The patentability of claims 18 and 23 have been shown above, these claims are patentable for the same reasons.

The Examiner rejects claims 21 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Laor as applied to claim 18 and 23 above, and further in view of Duguay.

These claims are dependent upon claim 18 or claim 23. The patentability of claims 18 and 23 having been shown above, these claims are patentable for the same reasons.

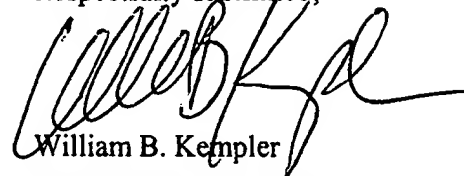
In the Examiner's response to arguments, in paragraph 12 of the official action, the Examiner states that Hoen does suggest a feedback device that specifically refers to column 2, lines 5-10. Applicant's respectfully note that the feedback referred to this portion of Hoen is "optical feedback".

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Accordingly, Applicant's believe the application, as amended is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William B. Kempler', written over the typed name.

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